

(a) whether the All India Manufacturers' Organisation has suggested that foreign investment should be encouraged only in high technical areas;

(b) if so, the details of other suggestions made by the Organisation;

(c) whether the Government have examined these suggestions; and

(d) if so, which of these suggestions have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other suggestions include adequate and timely availability of finance, simplification of labour laws, doing away with the policy of registration and change in laws and regulations governing constitution of small enterprises.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the new Industrial Policy proposals for foreign investment in industries other than high priority industries are not eligible for automatic clearance but will require the prior clearance of Government. It has not been found possible to do away with the system of registration of small scale units. The other suggestions have been taken up with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Blending of Edible Oils

4580. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow private sector millers to blend various edible oils to be sold in small consumer packs;

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the efforts being made for removing the prevailing disparity in prices of various oils in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final notification in this regard has already been issued vide GSR 91 (E) dated 7th February, 92 of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

(c) Allowing the blending of edible oils is one of the measures designed to remove the prevailing disparity in the prices of various oils in the Market.

[Translation]

Assistance for Hill Areas

4581. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide several facilities to certain districts of every State which are located adjacent to hills by declaring them hill areas;

(b) if so, the nature of facilities provided;

(c) the names of such districts of Maharashtra which have been provided these facilities;

(d) whether the Government also propose to include other districts in hill areas; and